

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please delete the heading “PATENT CLAIMS” and insert the heading

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) An airbag cover comprising a first layer (1) which is substantially intact in the region of a tear seam for airbag deployment and which borders the space in which the airbag deploys if the need arises,

and at least a second layer (2) which faces the folded airbag,

wherein the second layer (2) is attached to the rear side of the first layer (1) to reinforce said first layer (1),

and the second layer (2) has a weakened region (3) to predetermine the run of the tear seam should the airbag deploy.

2. (Original) An airbag cover according to claim 1, characterized in that the second layer (2) is made of a woven fabric, a sheet or a fleece material which is attached to the first layer (1) substantially over the entire area.

3. (Currently Amended) An airbag cover according to claim 1-~~or~~2, characterized in that the second layer (2) is attached to the first layer (1) by an adhesive method or is laminated to the first layer (1).

4. (Currently Amended) An airbag cover according to claim ~~2 or 3~~, characterized in that the fabric or the fleece ~~material~~ material of the second layer (2) is composed of thermoplastic or thermosetting synthetic materials or of metals, ceramics, glass or natural materials.

5. (Currently Amended) An airbag cover according to ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the first layer (1) is made of leather.

6. (Currently Amended) An airbag cover according to ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the first layer (1) is made of canvas, artificial leather, textiles, thermoplastic or thermosetting synthetic materials or thermoplastic/thermosetting synthetic materials.

7. (Currently Amended) An airbag cover according to ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the weakened region (3) is formed by at least one recess (3) in the second layer (2).

8. (Currently Amended) An airbag cover according to ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the weakened region (3) has an electrically conductive element through which, if the need arises, an electric current is passed directly before the deployment of the airbag to weaken the second layer.

9. (Currently Amended) An airbag cover according to ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 8, characterized in that a third layer (4) is attached to the second layer (2), which is composed of a spacer mesh, foamed material or a combination of spacer mesh and foamed material.

10. (Original) An airbag cover according to claim 9, characterized in that the third layer (4) has an auxiliary weakened region (3).

11. (Currently Amended) An airbag cover according to ~~one of claims 1 to 10~~, characterized in that the second layer (2) or the third layer (4) is provided with a reinforcing strip which faces the folded airbag.

12. (Currently Amended) An airbag cover according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 11~~, characterized in that the first layer (1) has a weakening along the region of the tear seam run.

13. (Original) An airbag cover according to claim 12, characterized in that the run of the weakened region (3) of the second layer (2) is not identical, or is only partially identical, with the run of the weakening of the first layer (1).

14. (Currently Amended) An airbag cover according to claim ~~12 or 13~~, characterized in that the weakened region (3) of the second layer (2) and the weakening of the first layer (1) extend in a wavelike or zigzag manner.

15. (Currently Amended) An airbag cover according to ~~one of claims 11 to 13~~, characterized in that the weakened region of the second layer extends linearly and that the weakening of the first layer extends in a wave-like or zigzag manner.

16. (Currently Amended) An airbag cover according to claims ~~11 to 13~~, characterized in that the weakened region (3) of the second layer (2) extends in a wave-like or zigzag manner and that the weakening of the first layer (1) extends linearly.

17. (Original) A method for manufacturing an airbag cover having a first layer (1) which is substantially intact in the region of a tear seam for airbag deployment and which borders a space in which the airbag deploys if the need arises,

wherein for the purpose of reinforcement, the rear side of the first layer (1) is connected substantially over the entire surface thereof with a second layer (2), which faces the folded airbag,

and the second layer (2) is provided with a weakened region (3) to predetermine the run of the tear seam should the airbag deploy.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, characterized in that a third layer is attached to the second layer.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 18, characterized in that before being attached to the second layer or after being attached to the second layer (2) the third layer (4) is provided with an auxiliary weakened region (3).

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~one of claims 17 to 19~~, characterized in that the first layer (1) is provided with a weakening before the second layer (2) is attached thereto.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 20, characterized in that the weakening of the first layer (1) is made such that the weakening of the first layer (1) is not identical, or is only partially identical, to the weakened region (3) of the second layer (2).

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22. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~one of claims 17 to 21~~, characterized in that the first layer (1) is punched to form the weakening, and that the second layer (2) is punched to form the weakened region (3).

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~one of claims 17 to 21~~, characterized in that the weakened region (3) of the second layer (2) is produced by an electrically conductive element, through which, if the need arises, an electric current is passed directly before the deployment of the airbag to weaken the second layer.